## **NDCEE**

#### National Defense Center for Environmental Excellence



#### **DoD Executive Agent**

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment)

## HAP Reduction in Rubber-to-Metal Bonding Operations

Joint Services Environmental Management (JSEM)

Training Conference and Exposition

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**Report Documentation Page** 

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#### **Background**

- The Sustainable Painting Operations for the Total Army (SPOTA) Program was initiated in anticipation of impending National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations such as the Defense Land Systems and Miscellaneous Equipment (DLSME).
- Red River Army Depot (RRAD) manufactures roadwheels and track pads for use on tracked vehicles by the DoD.
- The Rubber-to-Metal Bonding (RTMB) process uses an adhesive that is applied to metal cores, allowed to dry, and then crosslinked when the rubber is molded to the core in an injection mold process.
- Current materials in this process contain xylene which is a hazardous air pollutant (HAP).
- HAP emission reduction will help RRAD comply with the impending DLSME NESHAP.

### **Approach**

- Establish a baseline of current surface coating operations
- Identify potentially viable material and process alternatives
- Develop documentation to guide the team as they qualify and implement alternatives
- Evaluate identified alternatives
- Address implementation logistics

#### **Evaluation of RTMB Alternatives at RRAD**

- Testing indicates that parts manufactured with one waterborne alternative are capable of passing first article evaluations
  - T-107 and T-157 Tracks
  - 25" x 6" roadwheel
  - 24" x 3.75" roadwheel
    - Passed adhesion and six hour drum test
    - 1 failure out of 4 in 48 hour drum test
- A newly developed, reduced-HAP solvent-borne adhesive was also identified and evaluated at RRAD
  - Passed First Article Testing for T-107 and T-157 tracks
  - Roadwheel tests indicated failures in drum testing

#### Path to Implementation

- Completed First Article Testing of waterborne materials
- Identified on-vehicle test requirements
  - On-vehicle testing requires the production of parts using alternative materials
- Determined that preheating parts for application of waterborne materials is the limiting step in production
- Identified induction heating as having the potential to limit production bottlenecks when compared to a conventional oven

## **Induction Heating Components**

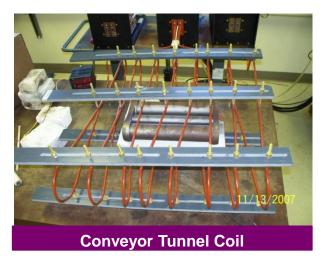


**Power Supply** 

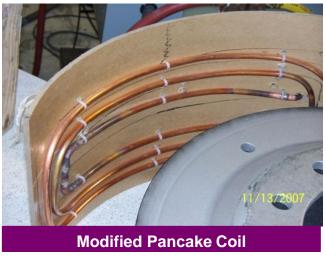


**Remote Heat Station** 

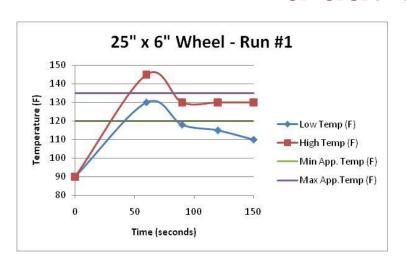
### **Induction Heating Coil Types**

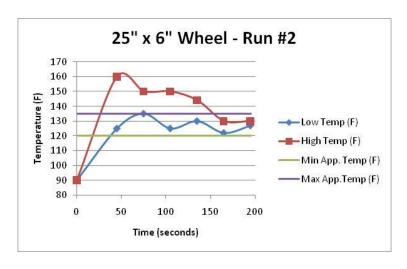


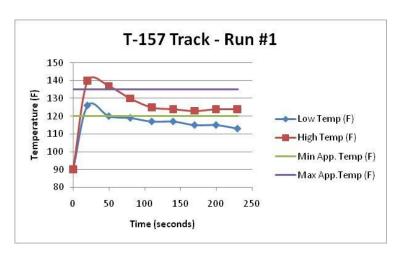




## Preliminary Technology Evaluation Results









## Preliminary Technology Evaluation Conclusions

- Induction heating technology is capable of heating roadwheels to the desired application temperature with acceptable variance.
- Induction heating technology is capable of heating tracks to the desired application temperature with acceptable variance.
- This technology warrants further evaluation in a production setting to evaluate applicability to RRAD track and roadwheel manufacturing processes.

# Low Rate Production Demonstration Results

 Info to be added upon completion of demonstration which will occur in April 2008

# Low Rate Production Demonstration Conclusions

 Info to be added upon completion of demonstration which will occur in April 2008

#### **Path Forward**

- Conduct on-vehicle testing of parts cured with induction heating from low rate production demonstration
- WILL BE UPDATED BASED ON RRAD DEMO RESULTS



Track block with adhesive applied (ready to mold)



Molded track block (technician trimming excess rubber)



Palletized complete track blocks

#### **Project Stakeholders**

- Red River Army Depot (RRAD)
- Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM)
- Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC)

#### **Contact Information**

#### **NDCEE Technical Monitor**

NDCEE Task N. 0446 – FY06 Sustainable Painting Operations for the

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